

## Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 EUR-12 SAJ-01 MC-02

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OES-03 MMO-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, SO, UR

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF SOVIET NAVAL FORCES

REF: MOGADISCIO 1591

1. IF YOU THINK IT USEFUL, YOU MIGHT WISH TO RESPOND TO THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE DISPOSITION OF SOVIET NAVAL FORCES IN THE AREA WITH THE FOLLOWING. WE HOPE IT IS ENLIGHTENING (BUT AT THE SAME TIME GENERAL ENOUGH SO THAT HE WILL NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO ASK FOR UPDATES.

2. DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE GROWN FROM PERIODIC INCURSIONS TO A

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REGULAR PRESENCE. DURING THE EARLY PORTION OF THIS BUILDUP

THE SOVIETS RELIED UPON MOBILE SUPPORT FROM AUXILIARY AND NAVAL ASSOCIATED MERCHANT SHIPS TO REFUEL, RESUPPLY AND REPAIR THEIR NAVAL UNITS.

MORE RECENTLY SOVIET ACCESS TO SOMALIA HAS PERMITTED THEM TO DEVELOP A SHORE BASED SUPPORT CAPABILITY IN BERBERA. ACCESS TO THIS PORT AND THE FACILITIES WHICH THE SOVIETS BUILT NOW PROVIDES THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT NEEDED FOR A REGULAR NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

3. THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN SQUADRON TODAY IS SELDOM STATIC DUE TO THE ALMOST CONSTANT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF VARIOUS UNITS. RECENTLY THE COMPOSITION HAS BEEN APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS:

1-2 MAJOR COMBATANTS  
1-2 TANK LANDING SHIPS  
2 PETYA CLASS DESTROYER ESCORTS  
2 MINE SWEEPERS  
1 SUBMARINE

ADDITIONALLY SIX TO TEN AUXILIARY/SUPPORT SHIPS ARE USUALLY PRESENT IN THE AREA. THESE MAY ON OCCASION INCLUDE TANKERS, HYDROGRAPHIC RESEARCH SHIPS AND SPACE SUPPORT SHIPS.

4. AT ANY TIME A SIZABLE PORTION OF THE ABOVE UNITS WILL BE AT ANCHOR NEAR SOCOTRA ISLAND (NEAR CAPE GUARDIFUI) OR IN PORT AT BERBERA. AT TIMES WHEN THERE IS A U.S. NAVAL TASK FORCE OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (AS THERE NOW IS) ONE OR MORE OF THE SOVIET UNITS WILL CONDUCT SURVEILLANCE OF THE GROUP AND MONITOR ITS OPERATIONS. OTHER PORTS WHERE WE HAVE ROUTINELY SEEN SOVIET SHIPS CALL INCLUDE ADEN, OMM QASR (IRAQ) AND MOGADISCIO. SOVIET NAVAL UNITS DO VISIT OTHER PORTS AND CONDUCT OPERATIONS IN SEVERAL DISTANT AREAS BUT AS YET THERE IS NO DECERNIBLE PATTERN TO THESE ACTIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS SOVIET NAVAL UNITS HAVE OPERATED AS FAR SOUTH AS THE COMORO ISLANDS, OFF THE COAST OF OMAN AND IN THE VICINITY OF DIEGO GARCIA. KISSINGER

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